VZCZCXYZ0000 PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHAH #0161 0321128
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 011128Z FEB 08
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0182
INFO RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 3316
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA 0113
RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY BAKU 0305
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1132
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK 2905
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE 0073
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT 5041
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 000161

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN, EUR/ACE AID/W FOR EE/EA

E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: <u>PREL EAID TX</u>

SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: EXPLORING POTENTIAL FOR U.S.-TURKISH COOPERATION ON ASSISTANCE TO CENTRAL ASIA

REF: REF: STATE 7210

11. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Not for public Internet.

12. (SBU) Charge and DCM hosted Turkish Ambassador Hakki Akil and DCM Tolgu Orkun on February 1 to discuss U.S.-Turkish assistance cooperation in 2008 in Turkmenistan, as per reftel instructions. We had provided a summary of reftel to Ambassador Akil in advance as a non-paper. He said he had no specific instructions from Ankara, but knew it has long been Turkish policy to cooperate with the United States to the fullest extent possible, and he endorsed this proposal. Both sides agreed, as the next step, to hold working-level discussions between resident USAID and TIKA officials to identify and explore concrete areas for cooperation that Turkey can afford financially. HOAGLAND